THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN):(a) to (d) Indian Airlines and Airline Allied Services Limited (operating Alliance Air) are two separate registered companies. Although AASL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, it is functionally autonomous.

The salary structure and other terms and conditions of service of employees of Indian Airlines are evolved through bilateral negotiations within the framework of Government guidelines as well as through various awards of Arbitrator/Tribunal/National Industrial Tribunal.

Employees of AASL are engaged through fixed term employment agreements which are renewable. The salary of critical categories of employees such as Pilots and Engineers was revised/rationalized, whereas the increase in salary of other categories of staff (Ground Staff) done by way of annual increments *i.e.* as per the conditions laid down in the contract.

Operational facilities to foreign Airlines

3083. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cruise Control Government restriction make foreign airlines think twice before setting up shop in India" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 17th March, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to create favourable conditions for the foreign airlines to operate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bilateral air services agreements are concluded on the basis of principle of reciprocity and equality of benefits to both sides. To achieve this the airlines sometimes enter into commercial arrangements to compensate for imbalances in operations and advantages. India has so far entered into bilateral Air Services

Agreements with 96 countries, under which traffic rights have been granted to foreign airlines for operating international services to/ from India. Actual operations are decided by foreign airlines according to their commercial judgement and comparative yields on different routes. No special restrictions as such have been placed on operation of foreign airlines who have traffic rights from their country and wants to operate to India. While some airlines have recently curtailed/withdrawn their services, some other airlines have also commenced their services to India. Presently a total of 50 foreign airlines are operating scheduled international services to/ from India.

IA services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia

3084. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines are contemplating to start its services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned these flights; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN):(a) to (c) Indian Airlines is not designated to operate services to Saudi Arabia. Although Indian Airlines has been designated for operating services to Hong Kong, they are yet to start operations. Air India is already operating to Hongkong.

Training to Pilots

3085. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to send pilots to England for training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;